

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 CPR-01 OIC-02 NEA-10 EA-07 AF-08 EB-07 /101 W

----- 060448

R 101100Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2855

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PARAMARIBO 0810

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA

SUBJ: SECVISIT: 31ST UNGA: SURINAM PRIME MINISTER ARRON VISIT

REF : STATE 180074

SUMMARY: FIRST ATTENDANCE BY A SURINAM PRIME MINISTER AT WORKING SESSION OF UNGA WILL PRESENT USG WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO INFLUENCE SURINAM'S VOTE IN THE UN AND ITS ATTITUDE ON GLOBAL ISSUES, AND COULD SET PRECEDENT ADVANTAGEOUS TO USG FOR SOME YEARS TO COME. EMBASSY URGES AN APPOINTMENT FOR ARRON WITH THE SECRETARY IF THE LATTER WILL BE IN NEW YORK BETWEEN OCTOBER 10 AND 14.

1. AS WE HAVE REPORTED IN PARAMARIBO 0806, PRIME MINISTER HENCK ARRON OF SURINAM (WHO IS ALSO FOREIGN MINISTER AND FINANCE MINISTER AS WELL) ARRIVES IN NEW YORK OCTOBER 9 AND DEPARTS OCTOBER 15. WE UNDERSTAND ARRON HAS BEEN ALLOTTED TIME FOR GA SPEECH ON OCTOBER 12. WE BELIEVE US INTERESTS WOULD BE WELL SERVED BY HIGH-LEVEL CONTACT WITH ARRON, PREFERABLY BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE. DISCUSSION WHOULD INCLUDE UNGA ISSUES REGARDING WHICH WE HAVE A STRONG INTEREST IN SURINAM'S VOTE AS WELL AS GLOBAL AND BILATERAL MATTERS ON WHICH SURINAM COULD BE GIVEN AN AUTHORITATIVE PRESENTATION.

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2. ARRON HAS BEEN PRIME MINISTER FOR THREE YEARS AND IS
THUS FIRST PRIME MINISTER SINCE INDEPENDENCE. PARLIAMENTARY
ELECTIONS ARE CONSTITUTIONALLY REQUIRED NEXT YEAR AND THE
MOST PROBABLE OUTCOME WILL BE ARRON'S CONTINUATION IN POWER.
HE IS THUS A GOOD PROSPECT TO HEAD THE GOVERNMENT OF
THIS COUNTRY FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. HE REPRESENTS A
BASICALLY MODERATE PARTY FAVORING GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE
NETHERLANDS, THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER WESTERN POWERS,
BUT ALSO FEELING ITSELF VERY MUCH A PART OF SOUTH AMERICA
AND OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD.

3. SURINAM'S FOREIGN POLICY THUS FAR HAS BEEN MOST
CONSPICUOUS BY ITS ABSENCE. THE COUNTRY HAS FOUND IT
VERY DIFFICULT TO ATTRACT WELL-QUALIFIED OFFICIALS AND
DIPLOMATS OF SURINAM BIRTH, MANY IF NOT MOST OF WHOM
HAVE OPTED TO MAINTAIN DUTCH NATIONALITY AND THROW IN
THEIR LOT WITH THE NETHERLANDS RATHER THAN THEIR NATIVE
COUNTRY. THERE IS NO ESTABLISHED FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUREAU-
CRACY, AND ALL IMPORTANT DECISIONS ARE MADE BY THE PRIME
MINISTER HIMSELF. ALTHOUGH SURINAM WAS ADMITTED TO THE
UN LAST YEAR PRIOR TO ADJOURNMENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
IT TOOK NO ACTIVE PART IN THE DEBATE OR VOTING AND THE
COMING UNGA WILL THEREFORE BE ITS FIRST REAL STEP ON
THE WORLD ORGANIZATION STAGE. HAVING NO FIXED POLICIES
AND RELATIVELY LITTLE EXPERTISE, SURINAM IS A GOOD
CANDIDATE FOR PERSUASION WHICH COULD ESTABLISH PRECEDENTS
WHICH WOULD PREDISPOSE THIS COUNTRY'S VOTE FOR YEARS TO
COME. AN APPRECIATION OF THIS FACT LIES, NO DOUBT, BEHIND
THE RECENT VISITS TO PARAMARIBO OF THE NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR
IN HAVANA AND THE CUBAN AMBASSADOR IN GEORGETOWN.

4. PRIME MINISTER ARRON IS YOUNG (40), INTELLIGENT,
REASONABLY WELL INFORMED AND PERSONALLY VERY WELL DISPOSED
TOWARD THE US. HE WILL TEND TO JUDGE THE IMPORTANCE
WHICH THE US PLACES ON SURINAM'S VOTE IN THE UN TO A
CONSIDERABLE DEGREE BY THE ATTENTION WHICH IS SHOWN TO
HIM. IF HE IS TOLD (AS HE HAS BEEN, FOR INSTANCE) THAT
THE US CONSIDERS THE VOTE ON KOREA HIGHLY IMPORTANT, THEN
HE WILL EXPECT TO HAVE HIS SUPPORT SOUGHT AT A HIGH
LEVEL IN NEW YORK. IF THE MATTER IS NOT IMPORTANT ENOUGH
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FOR IT TO BE RAISED WITH HIM BY A SENIOR US OFFICIAL IN
NEW YORK, HE WILL REASON, THEN IT WAS NOT REALLY AS
IMPORTANT AS THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN PARAMARIBO MADE OUT.
MOREOVER, ARRON HAS RECENTLY HAD THE EXPERIENCE OF
FLATTERING HIGH-LEVEL TREATMENT. HE WAS RECEIVED BY QUEEN
JULIANA IN THE NETHERLANDS AND HAD IMPORTANT TALKS WITH
PRIME MINISTER DEN UYL. HE WENT ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT
TO BRAZIL AND WAS RECEIVED, WINED, DINED AND DECORATED

BY PRESIDENT GEISEL. IF HIS TREATMENT IN NEW YORK DOES NOT INCLUDE ATTENTION BY THE HIGHEST AMERICAN OFFICIALS THERE, HE WILL DRAW CONCLUSIONS WHICH MAY BE DISADVANTAGEOUS TO US INTERESTS. IF THE SECRETARY OF STATE WILL BE IN NEW YORK DURING ARRON'S VISIT, THIS EMBASSY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT HE RECEIVE ARRON FOR A DISCUSSION FOR AT LEAST HALF AN HOUR.

5. A MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY WOULD NOT ONLY PAY DIVIDENDS IN TERMS OF ARRON'S PERSONAL ATTITUDE, IT WOULD PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PRESENTATION AT AN AUTHORITATIVE LEVEL OF THE USG'S VIEWS ON A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT QUESTIONS. THESE COULD INCLUDE:

A. THE KOREAN QUESTION,

B. OTHER IMPORTANT GA ISSUES SUCH AS PANAMA, PUERTO RICO, AND ISRAEL,

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ACTION IO-13

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R 101100Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2856

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PARAMARIBO 0810

C. CUBA, ITS INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA AND ITS POLICIES TOWARDS THE CARIBBEAN AND SOUTH AMERICA, AN ISSUE HIGHLIGHTED IN PRESIDENT FERRIER'S OPENING SPEECH TO PARLIAMENT,

E. US VIEWS ON THE NORTH-SOUTH ECONOMIC DIALOGUE, A SUBJECT WHICH ARRON'S MAJOR RIVAL, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS MINISTER

BRUMA (WHO REPRESENTED SURINAM AT UNCTAD IN NAIROBI)
HAS TRIED TO RUN AWAY WITH.

6. THIS FIRST VISIT OF A PRIME MINISTER OF SURINAM FOR
A WORKING SESSION OF THE UNGA WILL THUS PRESENT US WITH
AN OPPORTUNITY WHICH WILL PAY LONG-TERM DIVIDENDS IF IT
IS PROFITABLY USED. WE HOPE THAT THE DEPARTMENT WILL
GIVE URGENT CONSIDERATION TO THIS MATTER AND WILL INSTRUCT
THE EMBASSY TO APPROACH PRIME MINISTER ARRON WITH WHATEVER
POSSIBILITIES THERE MAY BE OF HIGH-LEVEL ATTENTION IN
NEW YORK. THIS SHOULD INCLUDE, OF COURSE, WHATEVER SOCIAL
OCCASIONS MAY ALSO BE AVAILABLE AND APPROPRIATE.
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